



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**

**Representative Mark Finchem (R-11)**

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**Friday, December 14, 2018**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Representative Mark Finchem Introduces First House Bill of 54th Legislature** *Legislation Prevents Counties from Blocking Federal Law Enforcement Grants*

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Representative Mark Finchem (R-11) today introduced the first House bill of the 54th Legislature.

The legislation prevents county boards of supervisors from prohibiting the acceptance of federal grants to supplement the budgets of county law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies.

In September, the Pima County Board of Supervisors voted to interfere with the good judgment of the Pima County Sheriff's Department by refusing a \$1.4 million grant for the county's participation in Operation Stonegarden. Operation Stonegarden is a successful collaborative mission between federal border enforcement agencies and state, local, and tribal law enforcement entities.

**"We have an obligation to our law enforcement officers to provide them with as many resources as possible to do the job of keeping our communities safe,"** said Representative Finchem. **"The Pima County Board of Supervisors shouldn't be able to jeopardize the safety of our citizens simply because they want to make a political gesture."**

**"Pima County's past participation in Operation Stonegarden has helped keep criminals off our streets and drugs out of our schools, and it's also been used for the Sheriff's life-saving mission in the hostile desert. My legislation will ensure that county law enforcement agencies will be able to accept federal grants to continue these efforts."**

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